

UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS  
BUSINESS SESSION AGENDA  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

CONDUCTING: Lynn Pace, ULCT First Vice President

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Kenneth Bullock	Executive Director
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Cameron Diehl	Director of Legislative Affairs
Jodi Hoffman	Land Use Analyst
Nick Jarvis	Dir. of Research & Technology
Peter Lara	Editor/Videographer
Brandon Smith	Legislative Research Analyst
Doug McDonald	Economic Policy Analyst
Krysten Olson	Administrative Assistant
Michelle Reilly	Director of Administrative Services

Ashley Morfin  
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Erin Cole

Executive Assistant  
Planning Consultant  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Director of Communications  
& Training  
Production Assistant

### **Welcome and Call to Order**

First Vice President Lynn Pace called the meeting to order at 8:12 AM and welcomed those in attendance.

### **Land Use Academy of Utah (LUAU)**

Planning Consultant Meg Ryan gave a brief overview of the online training for local elected and appointed officials regarding land use law. Ms. Ryan presented an informational video, explaining the purpose of LUAU, which was narrated by Senate President Wayne Niederhauser. It is expected that Utah's population will continue to increase exponentially over the next fifteen years. The free website, funded by a grant, has valuable information and tips about basics of state law and is broken down into three categories: 1) land use, real estate, and civics. This information is intended to guide local elected officials and appointed officials in decision making as they work to protect the future of our cities and towns.

First Vice President Pace thanked Ms. Ryan and those that were involved with the video production.

### **Water: Prep 60**

Ogden Assistant City Attorney Mark Stratford addressed the current use and future needs for water in Utah. It was easy to lose sight of the importance of tracking water and knowing how much water we are actually using. It is crucial to have accurate data as we plan for future growth in the state. Questions have been raised as to whether the data that has been collected is accurate. Inaccuracies have been noted and issues have been raised with crosschecking data and staff's actual knowledge of the process and reporting methods, as it relates to water use. This has created uncertainty at the state level and whether we can trust the information that has been provided in an audit report.

General Manager of Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Richard Bay stated Utah's population is growing and is estimated it will reach 6 M by 2060. The anticipated growth has created pressure to ensure the state will have economic prosperity. With this in mind, four water conservancy districts have partnered for the purpose of: 1) protecting Utah's water, 2) using the resource wisely, and 3) preparing for the future. This partnership has created a

unique relationship and each town or city, within the district, can select a water source that it wants to develop.

Utah has been recognized nationally for future planning; however, it has been determined that there is a problem with the annual water reporting, which has led to doubt in the Legislature. How can we trust our projections for future growth if we don't have accurate data?

General Manager of Weber Basin Water Conservancy District Tage Flint discussed how cities and towns can proceed with new collaboration for water needs. New water reporting forms will be developed by the end of the year, which will make reporting easier and the data collected will be accurate. Moving forward, it is important to know the needs of the municipalities. Many repairs and replacements will need to be made to systems throughout the state. The typical lifespan of a water system is 50 – 70 years and much of the infrastructure is worn out. It will be a daunting task to bring the infrastructure up to date with an 18 billion dollar price tag for the improvements.

### **Health Care Reform – Are We There Yet?**

Deputy General Counsel for Intermountain Health Care Greg Mathis discussed health care reform and how it impacted communities. Real reform is up to us; effective healthcare happens locally. It is necessary to adopt a culture of wellness, provide incentives, create the culture and be the change.

### **Wildland Fire Policy**

Director of Government Relations Cameron Diehl discussed the major wildland fires Utah experienced in 2012 and 2013. Mr. Diehl stated following the fires, Senator Vickers reached out to ULCT to explore a different approach to fighting wildland fires in Utah. ULCT assembled a work group to research the issue. The intention was to gather as much information as possible and conduct a risk assessment for the state concerning wildland fires.

Sandy Councilmember Steve Fairbanks noted that this topic is important to Sandy City. While the City is quite green, it borders state and federal lands and many residents have built homes that are inaccessible, which may create significant danger as it relates to wildland fires. The purpose of the work group was to look for ways to reduce overall wildland fires in the state, reduce the overall cost of fighting fires, and improve mitigation efforts. If fighting wildland fires is turned over to the state, cities and towns would participate by paying a match.

Forestry, Fire and State Lands Director Brian Cottam stated he'd been working with the work group for about 20 months. He had also received direction from Governor Herbert to look into fire suppression following the wildland fires in 2012. The main question is how do we pay for it? Mr. Cottam expressed his appreciation for the help the work group had received from the League. They finally have details and while the information is complex, once people see it, it will make sense. The specific details will be explained in a session later that afternoon. Mr. Cottam

explained that Senator Vickers' intent was to bring legislation that will go into effect in 2017. There is still time to work through the details and make things work for everyone. The biggest challenge is how to value the participant's match. There isn't enough data from the cities and towns and therefore, they used data from the counties since that is available and legitimate. The 10-year average of what the state has billed to cities and towns is \$175,000 and the proposed target amount is 1.3 M, based upon the available data. Mr. Cottam briefly discussed the proposed cost per acre. The funds will not be paid to the state but used locally for prevention, preparedness and mitigation. The document is still in the draft stage and will be used as a guiding document. The intent is to be as flexible as possible to help reduce the risk of wildland fires. The current system is based upon suppression and, if it isn't changed, it will lead to more fires, worse fires and an exponential increase in cost.

First Vice President Pace added that this is an opportunity to educate our communities and encouraged everyone stop by the session later that day to see the communities' individual assessments. Additional discussion regarding wildland fire suppression will be held at the October 19 policy meeting.

### **Law Enforcement**

Mr. Diehl gave an overview of the public safety bills that are anticipated in the 2016 legislative session; the use of body cameras is a hot topic. An additional concern regarding public safety is how to recruit and retain law enforcement.

Director of Research and Technology Nick Jarvis explained that the League is conducting a survey with the help of local law enforcement. The work group includes chiefs, sheriffs, managers, attorneys, ULCT and UAC. It will be a comprehensive survey and they hope to gather cold, hard facts to help address law enforcement issues related to Utah.

Ogden Mayor Mike Caldwell took a moment to recognize law enforcement in attendance. Mayor Caldwell shared a story about a recent tragedy in Ogden where Officer Jared Francom lost his life in the line of duty. In a show of support, 14,000 people attended his funeral. In contrast, a month later, a group attended an Ogden City Council meeting and spoke out against law enforcement. Mayor Caldwell believes that this group is part of the vocal minority and that the silent majority, that supports law enforcement, needs to be heard. More conversations are needed to discuss what we can do to offer support and shed light on the positive things that law enforcement provides in our communities. Law enforcement agencies are experiencing difficulties in recruiting officers. Lots of positions are available; however, because of the low pay and Tier II benefits, there is little incentive. The shortage in officers is a national issue and Utah needs to find ways to attract the best and brightest to fill the vacancies. Public perception of law enforcement isn't helped by the stories that the media select to cover. Things need to change to where we focus on the positive. We need to engage and educate the Legislature and do what we can to overhaul Tier II retirement. Public Safety is a career decision and research is needed to find more funding mechanisms for salaries and retirement. Additionally, auto insurance needs to be looked into to help revenue sources.

Bountiful Police Chief Tom Ross stated he had been with Bountiful for 29 years. He said people stop him daily and thank him for his service. Again, this is the silent majority. He explained that it breaks down into two parts: 1) officers need to love the community they serve, and 2) citizens need to love the officers. Unfortunately, the use of cell phone cameras doesn't allow for trust or how relationships are made in communities. Citizens need to know their officers in order to trust and love them.

### **Proposition 1 (Local Option Sales Tax for Transportation)**

First Vice President Pace discussed the ¼ cent sales tax and stated the local option for transportation will be shared. HB 362 has been authorized by the Legislature and 17 of 29 counties will have Proposition 1 on the ballot in the fall. The decision will be left to the voters.

Mr. Diehl noted that 111 cities and town have passed a resolution. The rules have been changed and there are certain things officials are restricted from doing if speaking for or against the sales tax increase. The League has posted a memo indicating what is and isn't permitted to support Proposition 1.

Interim General Manager for Utah Transit Authority Jerry Benson noted that factual information can be provided. There will be a 13 % increase to UTA if the funding is approved. UTA will engage in public outreach to get feedback regarding the proposed sales tax increase.

### **Ratify New ULCT Board Members**

First Vice President Pace thanked the outgoing ULCT Board Members.

Second Vice President Steve Hyatt stated many qualified individuals had submitted for the board positions. The nominations were reviewed by the ULCT Nomination Committee who submitted to the general membership the following elected officials to serve on the ULCT Board of Directors:

- Second Vice President: Council Member Beth Holbrook, Bountiful
- Board Member Area 3: Mayor Carmen Freeman, Herriman
- Board Member Area 4: Council Member Mike Mendenhall, Spanish Fork
- Board Member Area 5: Mayor Dean Baker, Naples
- Board Member Area 8: Mayor Dave Sakrison, Moab

Steve Fairbanks moved to ratify the nominations. Coralee Moser seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.